

It seems as if we are not free to exercise differing opinions and entertain alternative political affiliations in pursuit of the same goals.

Recently, the mayor of Savannah (a black Democrat) was quoted in your newspaper as having said, "Colin Powell is the most dangerous African-American in the nation."

One hopes this was an error on the part of the reporter. If not, it is yet another reminder of how vicious the anti-diversity attitude is among some of us.

Would the names of icons like Frederick Douglass, Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Zora Neale Hurston or even Sir Charles Barkley need to be stricken from the hearts and minds of admiring African-Americans because they are (gasp!) Republicans?

If so, then former NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks would have to be stricken from the record of his organization, because he too is a Republican.

One can only wonder how far the anti-diversity klan will go in its unholy war against those of use who choose not to ride the donkey in the future. What is so criminal about now following liberal policies whose good intentions have been outstripped by an unsocial program plantation that nutates motivation into increasingly depressing, even dangerous, directions?

The inner city has been the testing ground for schemes whose damage to health human potential rivals even the programs of the Austrian paperhanger and Karl Marx's stepchildren.

Essentially, paying poor women to have more fatherless children and providing endless excuses for community criminals whose lethal adventures in the "hood amass body counts that would be unacceptable in other communities are far from being acceptable measures of one's "blackness."

Still, the anti-diversity klan feels that those who do not embrace these hideous initiatives are somehow threats to the well-being of all African-Americans.

Their treatment of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas is their monument to intolerance. His being a virtual exile among the leadership class of our community is nothing short of tragic.

We are only four years away from a new century and millennium and this type of "thinking" serves as an anchor on our aspirations. Black Republicans, independents and every other kind of political creature are facts of life that these controllers will have to accept.

We have to have a "big tent" approach in our community if we are to achieve the objectives we claim are so important. Otherwise, the finger pointing and the shouting will be drowned out by the increasing volumes of triggers being pulled and hands that should be literate hopelessly scribbling on sheets of paper that threaten to become arrest reports if this trend is not ended.

Is being blindly loyal to any political party really worth losing everything that we found so hard to attain?

IN HONOR OF THE RIVER VALE-
SPONSORED AMERICAN LEGION
BASEBALL TEAM: INTER-
NATIONAL AMBASSADORS OF
OUR NATIONAL PASTIME

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special group of young men

who have distinguished themselves through their exceptional achievements on the baseball diamond. Through their outstanding exhibition of athletic performance and sportsmanship, these individuals serve as reminders of what can be accomplished when people work together for a mutual goal.

Baseball has long been the national pastime. Although the sport has provided enjoyment to those who had played it intramurally, the earliest organized game took place in what is now my district on June 19, 1846 on the Elysian Fields in Hoboken. From the first pitch, it was obvious that this new sport would have a tremendously positive effect on all future participants. This can be seen in the young men who took part in the International Baseball Tournament in Breda, Holland.

The multi-national celebration of baseball took place from August 18 to 26. The River Vale American Legion team was the only American team to participate in the tournament. Other countries which competed in the week-long activity included Russia, Italy, France, Germany and Holland, the host country. While in Holland, the players lived with native families, toured various cities and attended a number of social functions.

The group of 12 young men who successfully represented the United States included: Steven Batista, Michael Della Donna, Seth Jason Testa, Craig De Vincenzo, Luke Frezza, Mathew Kent, Michael Wren, Scott Clark, Michael Russini, Russell Romano, Thomas Lamanowicz, and Thomas King. Each athlete earned the respect of his peers. Joseph Pistone and Thomas De Vincenzo coached them to their undefeated, 10-0, tournament-winning record.

I am certain that my colleagues will join me in recognizing the outstanding efforts of the River Vale American Legion baseball team. The cause of mutual cooperation and understanding among people in the United States and Europe was greatly enhanced by their participation. These young men will long be remembered as international ambassadors of our national pastime.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR MRS. MARIA
THOMSON OF WOODHAVEN, NY,
BY PLACING HER NAME IN THE
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an unselfish and dedicated citizen of Woodhaven, NY, Mrs. Maria Thomson. As a president of the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association, and a member of the Community Board No. 9, Mrs. Thomson's volunteer efforts have been commendable. In addition to her prior achievements, Mrs. Thomson is the chairperson of the 102d Precinct Community Council, a founding member of the Woodhaven Residents' Security Patrol, and a graduate of the Civilian Academy of the New York City Police Department.

For nearly 20 years, Mrs. Thomson has labored tirelessly to improve the quality of life for the Woodhaven residents. As the executive director of the Greater Woodhaven Development Corporation and the Woodhaven Busi-

ness Improvement District, Maria has encouraged and implemented the revitalization of our Jamaica Avenue shopping strip. As a result of her efforts, she has attracted quality businesses and improved security and lighting along the commercial strip.

As a testament to her dedication to the community, when Engine Company No. 294 closed due to New York City budget cuts, Maria Thomson worked as first cochairman of the committee to save Engine Company No. 294. Eventually, this fire engine company was reopened to restore safe living conditions for area residents.

Those in the Woodhaven community have come to recognize Maria Thomson's name as a household word because of her sincere interest and dedication to community betterment. She is known to always be ready to lend an ear and a hand to anyone who asks for her assistance. It is for all these reasons which I take great pride in recognizing Mrs. Maria Thomson as true community hero. I urge my colleagues to recognize her and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS TO UNION-
TOWN, PA, AS IT MARKS ITS
200TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to congratulate the residents of the historic city of Uniontown, PA, located in my district, as they celebrate their bicentennial on October 5, 1996.

Two hundred years ago, in 1796, this beautiful town, nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, was officially incorporated as a borough. From its earliest days, it held a major spot in the country's history.

From its beginnings, Uniontown was considered an important market spot, drawing buyers and sellers alike from southwestern Pennsylvania and neighboring Maryland and West Virginia. This economic activity helped Uniontown become a popular resting stop along the Nation's first national highway which ran through the center of town. As such, Uniontown played a crucial role in encouraging the growth and movement of our Nation westward.

Uniontown also holds the distinction of being one of the centers of the Whiskey Rebellion, the Farmers Tax Revolt of 1791-94, which was a major test of the new U.S. Constitution. It is also the birthplace of such notables as Chief Justice of the Washington Territory, Charles Boyle; Industrialist J.V. Thompson; former U.S. Senator Dr. Daniel Sturgeon; Mason-Dixon Surveyor Alexander McClean; Revolutionary War Gen. Ephraim Douglas; and last, but not least, Five-star Gen. George C. Marshall.

During the late 1880's, Uniontown's fortunes brightened when it became a hub of the coal and coke boom. Site of some of the most immense deposits of the finest bituminous soft coal in the world, companies in and around Uniontown dug the coal from the ground and reduced it to coke for steelmaking in thousands of beehive ovens. The city quickly became the operational and financial center of